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Remake of Disney's Bambi helps save Arapaho language

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Imagine That!

The University of Montana - Missoula

This release is available electronically on INN (News Net).

May 11, 1995

Program Notes

REMAKE OF DISNEY'S *BAMBI* HELPS SAVE ARAPAHO LANGUAGE

(Imagine That! Greymorning - airs Sunday, May 21, at 9 p.m. on KUFM/KGPR and Monday, May 22, at 7:33 a.m. on KEMC and at 6:28 p.m. on KGLT.)

MISSOULA --

In the United States, 90 percent of the indigenous languages are on the verge of extinction because Native American children grow up speaking English, not their native tongue.

Stephen Greymorning, a Southern Arapaho, convinced the Walt Disney Co. to do something about the problem by remaking the Disney classic, *Bambi*, in Arapaho. Greymorning, a University of Montana-Missoula assistant professor of Native American studies and anthropology, discusses how animated films can help save Native American languages on the next segment of *Imagine That!*. The program will air Sunday, May 21, at 9 p.m. on KUFM/KGPR, immediately following the St. Louis Symphony.

Animated movies are part of all Native American children's modern culture, Greymorning says. "They will watch things like cartoons and it doesn't matter whether or not they actually understand the language," he says. "For children who have done enough of that, language cognition slowly creeps in."

Imagine That! is produced as a joint venture between The University of Montana-Missoula and Montana State University-Bozeman. The program also airs Monday, May 22, at 7:33 a.m. on KEMC and at 6:28 p.m. on KGLT. For more information, call Lilly Tuholske, UM research news editor, (406) 243-5547, or Annette Trinity-Stevens, MSU VP for Research Office, (406) 994-5607.

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